



NEWS RELEASE

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Kernan awards \$633,760 in grants to apprentice program to train 850 construction workers

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan today announced more than \$630,000 in grants to provide advanced training for 850 construction workers throughout Indiana.

Funded through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development's Incumbent Worker Training program, the state awarded \$633,760 in three grants to the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of Indiana, in partnership with Vincennes University, for use towards a statewide apprenticeship program. ABC matched the state funding with \$927,500 in contributions towards the effort.

"No matter what the industry or what the product, the need for a quality workforce is a priority across all sectors. That's especially true in the construction industry, which expects up to 13 percent growth by the end of the decade, and that's why we are so excited to be a partner in this effort," said Kernan. "This apprentice program will offer the appropriate training to Hoosiers interested in the construction fields so they can be ready to take advantage of some of the highest-paying and highest-skilled jobs available in the state."

Through ABC's Apprenticeship Trust, a non-profit education trust, participants will receive training in several areas including electrical and plumbing trades, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, electrical and carpentry. The training will be available at ABC's seven training sites in Columbus, Elkhart, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Lafayette, Muncie and South Bend.

Of the total state award, \$227,819 will be used to offer training in northern Indiana, where 300 participants will upgrade skills; \$189,827 will be used to train 250 workers in north central Indiana; and \$216,114 will be used to offer training to 300 workers in south central Indiana.

"Associated Builders and Contractors of Indiana is very pleased to have received this grant in partnership with Vincennes University," said Karen VanderWal, ABC's director of education. "This grant will allow us to expand and improve our training for the construction industry across the state."

ABC also has an articulation agreement with Vincennes University that provides students in the apprenticeship program with transcribed college credit for completion of the program, as well as a certificate of completion. As part of the apprenticeship program, students also can take general education classes through Vincennes University, which allows students to receive an associate of applied science degree.

"The partnership with Vincennes opens doors for our students that some never thought would be opened. ABC believes that a skilled workforce is a company's most valuable resource," added

VanderWal. "We are charged with providing training for our members' workforce, and this grant will allow us to offer each student improved training."

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Founded in 1973, ABC is part of a national association representing more than 21,000 member firms nationwide. ABC of Indiana represents more than 400 companies in the state, which in turn employ more than 50,000 construction workers.

All Indiana businesses are eligible to apply for Incumbent Worker Training grants. The grants are designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana, through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, works with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates the a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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